Surf Life Saving
Mid North Coast Branch Inc.

ANNUAL REPORTS
and
Financials
2016/17
Surf Life Saving
Mid North Coast Branch Inc.

**Office Bearers**

**2016/17**

**National Honours**
- Bob Kebby M.B.E.*
- Max Waters O.A.M
- Chalkie Bob Smith O.A.M
- Ray Agland O.A.M *
- Michael Moran O.A.M*
- Tony Hayes O.A.M

**SLSA Life Members**
- Reg Saunders*
- Max Waters O.A.M
- Chalkie Bob Smith O.A.M

**SLS New South Wales Life Members**
- Reg Saunders*
- Max Waters O.A.M
- W. Tom Saul*
- Kevin Ruscoe*
- Chalkie Bob Smith O.A.M
- Tony Hayes O.A.M
- Bruce Caldwell
- Dennis O’Sullivan
- Rod McDonagh

**SLS Mid North Coast Life Members**
- Ken Brenton*, Sid Griffin*, Bob Kebby M.B.E*,
- Reg Saunders*, W.Tom Saul*, Max Waters O.A.M,
- Max Sabien*, Kevin Ruscoe*,
- Chalkie Bob Smith O.A.M, Ray Agland O.A.M*,
- Tony Hayes O.A.M, John (Yakka) Watson*, Bruce Caldwell,
- Ken Corbett, John Vipond, Graham Bingham,
- Dennis O’Sullivan, Ken Wilson, Rod McDonagh

**Patrons**
- David Gillespie MP (Member for Lyne)
- Melinda Pavey MP (Member for Oxley)
- Luke Hartsuyker MP (Member for Cowper)
- Leslie Williams MP (Member for Port Macquarie)
- Lisa Intemann (A/Mayor Port Macquarie Hastings Council)
- Liz Campbell (Mayor Kempsey Shire Council)
- Rhonda Hoban (Mayor Nambucca Shire Council)
- Michael Slater (CEO NPBS)

**Sponsors**
- Newcastle Permanent Building Society
- Safe’n’Sound Self Storage Port Macquarie
**Supporters**
- Mike Mooney - The Rego Shop, Port Macquarie
- Ken Little Fruit & Veg
- Coles Lighthouse Beach & Laurieton
- Lighthouse Beach Quality Meats
- Bakers Delight Port Central

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<td>Chalkie-Bob Smith, Paul Rayner, Ryan Rosenbaum, Bruce Caldwell</td>
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<td>Rod McDonagh, Joanne Hawkins to convene as necessary</td>
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<td>Disciplinary &amp; Grievance Committee</td>
<td>Tim Atherton to convene as necessary</td>
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<td>Life Membership Committee</td>
<td>Chalkie Bob Smith, Bruce Caldwell, Tony Hayes, John Vipond, Ken Wilson</td>
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**Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast Branch comprises eight Clubs:**

- 🟢 Macksville-Scotts Head
- 🟠 Kempsey-Crescent Head
- 🟡 Wauchope-Bonny Hills
- 🟢 South West Rocks
- 🟡 Port Macquarie
- 🟥 Hat Head
- 🟥 Tacking Point
- 🟥 Camden Haven
It is with great pride that I present the 2016-17 annual summary for Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast. The role of our Clubs, stretching from Camden Haven to Macksville-Scotts Head is a vital service to the community of the Mid North Coast. This has been evident by the demands on our volunteers and a reliance on our expertise and resources for a wide range of activities. This could include first aid at sporting events, water safety at triathlons, presentations to schools, and the list goes on. Obviously our traditional operations such as patrols, competition, education and development of our members are paramount. To be able to provide these services into the future requires a realistic and flexible approach and forecasting of factors such as emerging trends with beach visitation, increased population and increased visitor attendance.

Our volunteers have performed in a professional manner throughout the season and have adapted to the constant changes in Surf Life Saving, in all aspects. The SLSMNC Board of Directors has worked towards future sustainability and whilst there are challenges the relationship between the Branch and the Clubs will ensure that Surf Life Saving remains progressive in our area.

The Life Saving Portfolio has been challenging this season with the departure of Ryan Rosenbaum who unfortunately left the area due to work. Deputy Paul Rayner filled the void and did a great job and I thank him for sticking with it. Due to this our patrols and out of hours response was exemplary. The continual development of our Duty Officers, RWC crews and call out teams is first class and we were the first point of call for most incidents. I believe we can further promote this vital service and provide additional resources and security for our patrolling members; this is not to take away from the excellent job all Clubs carried out during a long season. Assistance from the NSW Government towards lifesaving equipment has ensured that Clubs are well equipped to patrol our beaches. This season has seen increased engagement with other Government Agencies and delivery of a safer aquatic environment in the Hastings, Nambucca and Macleay area.

Clubs have renewed their lifesaving agreements for the ensuing three years and this has been modelled around maintaining a functional service to the public and tailoring the capabilities of Club resources. Assistance from the NSW Government towards lifesaving equipment has ensured that Clubs are well equipped to patrol our beaches. This season has seen increased engagement with other Government Agencies and delivery of a safer aquatic environment in the Hastings, Nambucca and Macleay area. I thank all Clubs for the commitment and cooperation with patrols which at times can be demanding.

Our Surf Sports program over the season has been well attended and several local Open and Junior Carnivals were conducted. Clubs were well represented at Country, State and Australian Championship with some outstanding performances and medals produced at all levels. It was pleasing to see people undertake officials courses which will assist towards longer term goals within the Surf Sports portfolio. Our Director Ray McDonagh has worked with a small but dedicated team to analyse the competitors’ needs and align some of our events towards this, the Surf Sports panel has met on a few occasions and made relevant recommendations.

The North Coast Boat Series continues to operate with strong numbers which has moulded some of the excellent results at higher levels. The Stramit Country Championships was held at South West Rocks, which attracted large numbers of competitors over a two day period. The event was a great success and will be held at SWR in 2018. Most Clubs held point scores and conducted varied events such as ocean swims and stand up paddle board events which is another great facet of what we do.

Gary Hawkins and the Member Services team have had a big season with continual improvement in all aspects of assisting our members to become better lifesavers. Several development camps were conducted which have been of great benefit to those in attendance and have developed our lifesavers to a high standard. Trips to the metropolitan area further advanced the skills of our members and all have enjoyed the experience. The Junior Life Saver of the Year had good representation from Clubs and had 2 very worthy winners in Elizabeth Duffy (Port Macquarie SLSC) and Kye Gill (Wauchope Bonny Hills.
I believe the Junior membership is in a strong position at all Clubs, but obviously we can always strive towards better initiatives for the future. It is vital that we further engage with all categories of our membership and identify our areas of improvement, to allow Clubs to empower their members. All Junior Life Savers of the Year nominees should be congratulated on a great job as young ambassadors for Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast. These outstanding young lifesavers are a testament to the quality of the juniors moving their way forward in Surf Life Saving. They have all taken a keen interest in Branch affairs and encourage their peers to become involved in our movement.

Macksville-Scotts Head were rewarded for their nomination as Rescue of the Month and went on to win the SLSNSW Rescue of the Year and were invited to Parliament House Canberra to receive recognition from SLSA. A truly great effort and the heroic efforts of Jason O’Donnell, Scott Balfour and their team in rescuing an Irish kayaker is to be commended.

Late in the season Camden Haven were involved in a dramatic rescue in treacherous seas. The heroic efforts of Tony Worton and Phil Travers, who went to the aid of a female who had drifted offshore. This rescue was well reported in the media and has been nominated for further honours this year. Similar to Scotts Head, this exemplifies the training and skills we all develop as lifesavers and our willingness to assist out of hours.

The Education Team have conducted a vast array of courses being made available to members and many courses delivered to the Community, which is one of our important Branch obligations. All of these courses have been very professionally conducted by our Trainers, Assessors and facilitators. The Education role is quite intense and constant reviews of policy and procedures is integral to the best outcomes, more importantly it will allow us to provide enhanced community education and quality training for our members. Kim Rayner has led a dedicated team of trainers and assessors and all involved have done a mighty job. Congratulations to Amanda Higgerson who was elected as SLSNSW Director of Education. We look forward to working with her and the professionalism she will bring to the role.

My thanks to all of the Branch Board of Directors who all contribute an enormous amount of time and personal sacrifice which often goes unnoticed, but it is encouraging to have such passionate people in these roles.

I also acknowledge the workload of Club volunteers in regards to administration, governance, fund raising, sponsorship, patrols, juniors and of keeping a Club harmonious. The Branch has committed to investigating options to assist Clubs with support to carry out these functions. My thanks to Surf Life Saving NSW Directors and staff, Kempsey Shire Council, Nambucca Shire Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council who have afforded various financial and in-kind support throughout the season. We acknowledge the assistance of SLSNSW and SLSA partners, Stramit Building Products, DHL, BEKO, Dulux, Westpac, Engine Swimwear, Dolphin Surfcraft, Virgin, Clubs NSW, particularly state and federal Government representatives, Melinda Pavey, Leslie Williams, Luke Hartsuyker and Dr David Gillespie for enabling our core functions of building better communities and saving lives. Our major sponsor Newcastle Permanent Building Society is a wonderful organisation who provides us with many opportunities to promote Surf Life Saving on the Mid North Coast and my sincere thanks to them.

Finally, the Branch could not function without the members who fulfil the many roles that make our Clubs function and my thanks to those people.

Yours in Life Saving

Rod McDonagh
President SLSMNC
Another successful lifesaving season for SLSMNC has drawn to an end with pre-season planning already commenced for the 2017/18 season.

This season saw some new initiatives introduced by members of our Branch. Four of our Cadet members developed and then presented a series of Community Education sessions at four Primary schools within the Hastings and Camden Haven areas and our Member Services Team included members from LNC Branch in one of the Development Programs.

Once again we have seen high level dedication and commitment by our members recognised.

Following on from their National Rescue of the Month Award, Surf Lifesavers from Macksville-Scott’s Head SLSC received a Meritorious Award at the SLSA Awards of Excellence held in October and Brienna Elford from SWRSLSCLC was awarded SLSNSW Administrator of the Year at the 2015-16 SLSNSW Awards of Excellence.

Amanda Higgerson was elected SLSNSW Director of Education, Rod McDonagh awarded Life Membership of SLSNSW and Robert ‘Chalkie-Bob’ Smith received a staggering ‘50 Years of Officiating’ certificate.

On a sad note one of our well known and much loved members Tony Wright was tragically hit by a vehicle whilst cycling along Cathie straight in March this year. After a long period of rehabilitation, I’m happy to report Tony is making great progress and look forward to seeing his happy smile back on our beaches soon.

Throughout the season our members attended State development programs such as the 18-25’s Development and Networking Program, 26+ Development Program, Youth Opportunity Makers and Junior Lifesaver of the Year. Our Directors also attended the NSW Combined Portfolio’s Conference.

The SLSMNC Awards of Excellence and Presentation evening was held at WBHSLSC on 17 June. Official guests included Jessie White and Adam Power from Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Hon Melinda Pavey Member for Oxley and Minister for Roads, Maritime & Freight, and Amanda Higgerson SLSNSW Director of Education.

Thank you to my co-host Tony O’Mara SLSNSW Regional Manager and SLSMNC Cadets for their assistance. The Surf Sports Awards for the season were also presented on the night. A full list of all recipients of the awards can be found further in the report.

Congratulations to all our members who received awards.

The outstanding awards from the Mid North Coast Branch Awards of Excellence have been nominated for the NSW Awards of Excellence which will be held at The Sydney Hilton on the 5 August. We have many members and supporters attending this year and I look forward to the evening. Good luck to everyone!!
SLSNSW have been very supportive and provided the Clubs and Branch with funding and resources either via internal fundraising or in partnership with sponsors. They have also supported the Development Programs we run within our Branch.

Our longstanding sponsors Newcastle Permanent Building Society have been generous over a number of years and have prominent links to our Branch. Undeniably they have had a major impact on the succession and sustainability of Surf Life Saving on the Mid North Coast.

Special thanks also to our Branch supporters for their continued support; Safe’n’Sound Self Storage, Ken Little Fruit & Veg, Coles Lighthouse Beach, Coles Laurieton, Lighthouse Beach Quality Meats, Bakers Delight Port Central.

We must also thank, acknowledge and support our State and National sponsors and supporters.

To all the Executive and Clubs thank you for your support during the season.

Joanne Hawkins
SLS MNC Director of Administration
Another Surf Life Saving season has passed with our eight clubs continuing to service the community. Again, Surf Lifesaving Mid North Coast can boast that we had zero drownings between the flags this season.

To all members that patrolled our beaches to make a safe swimming environment this year I thank you all. Without you doing the hard yards our beaches would not be the safe haven that swimmers enjoy and expect.

This year we welcomed the instigation of the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) taking over the Port Macquarie Hastings Council lifesaving contract. Congratulations to James Turnham and his group of Lifeguards who worked hand in hand with the volunteer ranks. The service was bolstered by the positioning of a full time RWC at the Hasting River Mouth at Town Beach, enabling a fast response to incidents within the area.

This year also saw the Drone Academy setup within Port Macquarie. A number of members were trained in the use of Drones including three lifeguards within Port Macquarie. Exciting times ahead I am sure with this becoming a regular tool within the lifesaving ranks within the next few years I am sure.

Patrolling apps are becoming a huge part of lifesaving as well. Ipads for all clubs are going to be issued enabling patrol captains to use up to the minute technology to sign on, update stats and record incidents. An app is being developed to enable gear inspections to be conducted electronically which will expedite the process.

The Mid North Coast Support Operations Group continued its good work with a number of callouts being attended to during the year. Unfortunately there was a drowning within our branch, which was disappointing. I thank the members of this group for their tireless efforts doing an often thankless job. Our response times to incidents is second to none.

Congratulations to Will Smith from South West Rocks SLSC for being named the 2016/2017 Branch Life Saver of the Year. Also the Young Lifesaver of the Year being Malcolm Green also from South West Rocks SLSC. Great effort to both of you. Good luck at the NSW Awards of Excellence night in Sydney.

Congratulations to Camden Haven SLSC for taking out the NSW Rescue of the Month for April 2017. During this rescue, a woman was saved who had been in the water for over 40 minutes. The incident occurred late in the day when the patrol had ceased for the day and the callout team responded admirably to save this woman. This dedication saved a life on this day and the club were the worthy recipients of the award.

We took delivery of a new RWC for the Branch which was purchased through the BRP Grant $4$.
This new RWC has commenced operations within the northern part of the branch and will be a very useful asset. The old RWC was held onto for the season and utilised by the ALS for operations at Rainbow Beach Bonny Hills.
Overall across the state, the drowning fatalities were kept to a minimum. This season’s drowning’s across the state were well below the norm and again I believe that the strengthening of the support operations network now which includes all branches is working to minimise the gaps that we have in patrolling techniques.

Congratulations on these results. It was pleasing to see the standard of the patrolling groups on the beach this season and the professionalism when members are attired in their full patrol uniform.

Some Patrol stats for this season:

Our eight surf lifesaving clubs patrolled 27,536 hours this season and performed 2900 preventative actions together with 123 Rescues. There were also 603 First Aid incidents with 3 requiring ambulance intervention.

Our top patrolling member for the Branch again for a number of consecutive years was Paul Rudduck from Hat Head SLSC with an astounding 283 hours. Paul epitomises volunteerism and never complains about what he does. A truly dedicated member within the organisation.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the outstanding contribution to the organisation that John Restuccia made as the NSW Director of Lifesaving during the twelve years that he served. I know on a personal level, he assisted me greatly during this time. He is a friend, mentor and genuinely great surf lifesaver. Thank you John for your contribution.

To the eight club captains, well done. I thank you for your assistance throughout the season. To all lifesavers whether actively involved or working in the background, thank you all.

Paul Rayner
A/Director of Lifesaving
Mid North Coast Branch
Another season of high quality performances & rewarding results for mid north coast competitors. Reviewing the season shows participation numbers at junior age carnivals was slightly down, this also applied to their branch championships, however it was pleasing to see all clubs within the branch represented & competing at a branch level.

Senior carnival numbers were extremely poor, however attendance at the branch championships was improved by an influx of u/15-17 & master’s competitors attending. Once again only three clubs were represented at the senior championships. I cannot believe that five clubs in the branch do not have any junior to master’s competitors available & willing to compete in their branch championships.

Representation by MNC junior age, open, masters & boat crew competitors at the three major championships, NSW country, NSW state & Australian championships, was very good with a number of rewarding results gained over a broad range of events. Congratulations to all junior age, open, & master’s members who gained placings & the honour of receiving a medal at these events.

MNC team gained success at the NSW inter -branch championships placed third in the country division point score. With the majority of the present team eligible & with any new talent emerging, future prospect for higher honours in this competition are very good for our branch.

South West Rocks were the host club for two major SLSNSW championships during the season. One in a season is a major achievement but two is huge. First event was the country championships followed by the. NSW IRB titles, these two events not only gained recognition for south west rocks but the whole of the mid north coast branch. Both events were highly successful gaining high praise from SLSNSW surf sports, competitors & officials. Country championships will be conducted at the rocks again in 2018.

As surf sports director I have concerns about a number of issues relating to the conduct of surf sports across the branch, firstly may I say once again, surf sports is one of the best tools in this organization to retain members & for this reason I see a need in my opinion for clubs to address the five major items listed below.

(1) Coaches: only two clubs in the branch have accredited coaches, six have none, I cannot see it being fair to our members especially our junior age if we are not showing them the correct technique & training methods pertaining to their beach & water events allowing them to gain their peak potential.

(2) Officials: (excluding boat sweeps) four clubs have no accredited officials with one club having one only, once again how are competitors, age managers & team managers expected to know the competition rules. It would very beneficial & helpful if clubs could prioritize & address these first two subjects for the benefit of their members.

(3) Hosting carnivals: it costs money to host a carnival with very little or no return to clubs. I am presently preparing a proposed plan for the board allowing this situation to be changed, then if approved by the executive presenting the proposal to clubs for their input.
(4) Carnivals: I believe the number of carnivals for junior age, u15-17, open, & masters should be increased & conducted within a shorter time frame, with more variety & specialized events and better programming. I also believe there is a need for branch to play a bigger role in sponsorship, marketing & publicity for carnivals.

(5) Carnival management system: The introduction of the carnival management system was a positive for the conduct of carnivals in the branch. I know there were teething problems for clubs as there is in any new system & clubs don’t get to see the final outcome of the system on the day, but let me assure clubs it makes regulations & other procedures required to conduct carnivals these days so much easier to process.

I must thank Suzanne White for her dedication to this program, the amount of time she put in liaising with SLSA, educating clubs, referees, & myself was astonishing, I am sure clubs will get the benefit of her hard work in future years.

SLSA, SLSNSW surf sports are for ever changing rules & procedures with a view to making participation & member retention easier for clubs, the coming season will be no different. For the benefit of MNC clubs three important changes that are likely to affect us will be (a) allowing mixed age beach relays at state championships (b) the inclusion of a first aid competition at country titles (c) recreation membership, SLSA guideline for this are in the final stage of completion & hopefully will be released asap. SLSA will be distributing more circulars on this subject as they become available.

To make any season viable there are many members that deserve a thank you for the time & dedication they contribute.

I would like to thank all the clubs & their committees for their support, particularly Hat Head & Camden Haven for hosting branch championship carnivals, the loyal competitors for their support, every member that contributed to making surf sports happen in their club.

Special thanks to the MNC branch executive, my deputy Wendy Evans for all the assistance she gives me, it is greatly appreciated.

Branch Director of Administration Jo Hawkins, along with many other aspects of surf sports Jo prepares all the trophies & awards for the branch award of excellence night.

Inter-branch coach Richard Broomby & manager Melinda Cockshutt they do a great job preparing the MNC team.

We are very fortunate to have very efficient & dedicated officials in our branch, without them there would be no carnivals, I thank each & every one of them.

In conclusion, I know how hard it is for any competitor to gain success at any carnival, for all MNC competitors may next season be the season you receive the reward you deserve.

Ray McDonagh
SLSMNC Director of Surf Sports
Once again, the Member Services Team has had an enormous season covering a diverse range of activities within the scope of the portfolio. I would like to personally thank the efforts of all that assisted me throughout the season, and acknowledge the support from the MNC Branch Executive, our 8 MNC Clubs and their members, SLSNSW, Branch sponsors Newcastle Permanent Building Society and Safe and Sound Self Storage.

Recognition goes to SLSMNC Branch President and SWR SLSC President Rod McDonagh whom was honoured with Life Membership of SLSNSW for his continuing services to Surf Life Saving. Amanda Higgerson was accepted into the position of SLSNSW Director of Education, a great achievement for her and a person with a passion for the role. Congratulations.

14 MNC finalists were included in the 2016 SLSNSW Awards of Excellence which were held in Sydney at the Four Seasons Hotel. The MNC Member Services Team was a finalist in the Team of the Year category. Congratulations went to Brienna Elford from SWR SLSC for her achievement in winning SLSNSW Administrator of the Year and to Macksville Scotts Head SLSC for taking out SLSNSW Rescue of the Year. Both worthy recipients, with the Macksville Scotts Head SLSC being recognised in Canberra with National Rescue of the Month. I thank those who nominated for the Branch awards, the Clubs that supported their members in the application process and those who attended the Awards at Branch and State level.

This season Jacob Worton, Jorja Miller, Kiera Alchin, Kye Gill, Chris Broomby, Chloe Slade, Mitchell Scott, Elizabeth Duffy, Serenity Clancy, Thomas Fletcher and Erin Cook represented their Clubs at the MNC JLOTY selection. The selection panel comprising of Julie Tancred, Bronwyn Simpson, Leanne Goggin and myself had the challenge of interviewing these inspiring young lifesavers. The eventual winners were Elizabeth Duffy PM SLSC and Kye Gill WBH SLSC who both then went on to represent MNC Branch at the SLSNSW JLOTY Development Program in Sydney.

The MNC Branch was represented on the SLSNSW JLOTY interview and selection panel by both Jess Rayner and myself for the second year running, a great privilege to meet and hear thoughts and ideas from our youth and also to gain an insight into the process at state level.

Run concurrently with the JLOTY program the SLSNSW Youth Opportunity Makers Workshop saw three aspiring members namely Jesse Willis WBH SLSC, Jack Tougher Wells WBH SLSC and Isaac Plunket PM SLSC attend this three day development program with likeminded youth.

Age Manager courses were conducted during the early stages of the season which ensured clubs were compliant with the correct ratios of age managers to junior members. There was more of an emphasis this season on ensuring the education component was delivered to our junior members through our Junior Education officer Michelle Garvan. This will be an area we need to focus on more in the future to
ensure our juniors are learning the early skills that make the pathway to the SRC and then onto Bronze medallion a lot easier. They are skills for life.

Grace Kuhnell, Isaac Plunkett, Piper Seale and Georgie Bates were inspirational at a series of Community Education sessions held at four Primary schools in the Wauchope and Camden Haven areas. With Grace masterminding the format and assistance given by mum Michelle Butt the half hour interactive presentation on water/beach safety and nippers was well received by the kids and teachers. I truly believe by utilising these enthusiastic Youth to engage the school kids (with support from experienced patrolling members) the surf safety message can be delivered to more kids across our Branch.

Following on from some past tragic circumstances at Clubs within the MNC Branch which involved loss of members lives, Member Services approached external support groups Lifeline and Headspace. Information leaflets which were specific to individual needs eg. Grief and loss, were discreetly placed in Clubs for members with contact numbers for these support groups, and from feedback given they were grateful for this referral service. Member Welfare will play a bigger part in the Member Services portfolio in the future, with more groups being promoted to assist those members individual needs.

It would be remiss of me to not mention our successful Development Programs run this season. These were a great team effort, with the Youth Development Program to Dee Why involving Lower North Coast for SRC and Bronze holders and the Scotts Head Program for U/12’s to U/19’s. Both programs were well attended, with the content of each program being relevant and beneficial to the members. A positive outcome was achieved by allowing the older youth to show leadership and mentor the younger members. Keeping these programs interesting with fresh ideas, new activities and inspiring facilitators ensure the successful future of the programs. What we offer our members is unique and more and more Clubs and Branches are wanting to know about our programs, a true testament to all those involved in their delivery. As always special thanks must go to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make these programs happen, and a full report of each program follows on from this report.

With just over 30 patrolling members Camden Haven SLSC put out a call for assistance with patrols this season and visiting members attended to patrols at their beach. Dee Why SLSC members travelled for a weekend on the MNC, assisted with patrols, performed water safety for proficiencies, and engaged with their nippers in activities in the water, on the sand and first aid education. Dee Why SLSC Deputy President drove up and participated in the Sunday Patrol, where he got to see firsthand the friendship that has now been forged between his Club and the MNC Branch. It is hoped we can continue to inspire and involve members well into the future, continuing on with what was started 4 years ago with our first trip to Dee Why.

Thank you to those who have supported me this season including Joanne, my righthand typist and coordinator, MNC Branch Executive, Clubs, members and participants, and all those who have made a positive difference for our members. Thank you and I look forward to the 2017/18 season.

Gary Hawkins
SLSMNC Director of Member Services
This season saw the SLSMNC Members Services Team once again hold 2 successful Development Programs, a combined U/12 – U/19 camp and a Youth trip to Dee Why SLSC.

**MNC Youth visit to Dee Why 2017**

In January 2017 the Member Services Team organised another Youth trip to Dee Why SLSC. 12 months in the planning saw some LNC members join us on our program, a surprise that not too many knew about.

As our visit was during the school holidays this season, we were able to leave early on the Friday morning.

Our first stop was SLSNSW State Centre where we had lunch and a talk with the Surfcom operators. From there we drove to the Westpac Helicopter Base at La Perouse where some of our youth experienced simulated winch rescue.

Saturday morning saw us rise early and head off to Surf Rescue 30 at Malabar where the pathways and prerequisites needed to be a crew person and skipper were explained.

Off to the Fallen Lifesaver memorial at Coogee, where we were greeted by a Coogee Life Governor whose idea inspired the creation of the memorial.

A little on the history and a minute silence followed the MNC and LNC laying of wreaths.

After lunch we broke up into 4 patrol groups and patrolled Dee Why, Freshwater, North Steyne and Manly. The patrols were headed by ‘patrol captains’ that came from our older age groups. Also a group of 4 were selected to attend surfcom and operate the radios.

As the sun was rising on Sunday morning 57 eager lifesavers got off the bus to assist Age Managers and perform Water Safety at Wet ‘n’ Wild Nippers. Unbeknown to them ABC were filming a nipper program due to be aired soon on ABC. Free time in the park followed, a great way to end the full on weekend.

Many thanks to the chaperones for their super efforts in particular Sandra and Michelle who sought sponsorship from Ken Little Fruit & Veg, Coles Lighthouse Beach, Coles Laurieton, Lighthouse Beach Quality Meats, Bakers Delight Port Central.

Joanne Hawkins
SLSMNC Development Program(s) Coordinator
U12-U/19 Youth Development Camp 2016

For the first time in our delivery of Development Programs within the MNC Branch we have finally had every Club represented this season.

The program this year again held at Scott’s Head, saw the younger U/12 and U/13’s come together for some activities, whilst the older groups through to under 19’s were given the opportunity to be mentors to the younger members.

Divided into 5 working/activity groups the two tasks to complete over the weekend were disclosed to all. A series of SLS and Newcastle Permanent TV commercials and music clips were shown, with each group to produce one of their own. The results were awesome and can be viewed on our Member services facebook page.

The other activity was for the groups to design an activity page for our younger U/6 to U/7 members of our Branch. 5 pages were designed, from findawords to mini crossword puzzles, with all contributing in the process. Can’t say much more at this stage but watch out early next season.

Pathways were discussed in SLS, drawing upon the Lifesavers within the group who have achieved awards. Max and Lachlan discussed their roles as ALS Lifeguards, and how their gaining of awards and experience since early days in nippers has allowed them both to become Lifeguards. Another leadership role explained.

Down at the beach they all worked together to recover Bob and Gaz-unda, and our 45kg life like training mannequin Bruce. The race was on to save Gaz-unda first, with his many holes he was the first to disappear each time. Some used board skills, rescue tubes and the pirates manned the IRB hulls to successfully rescue their patients, return them to shore to do any resus or first aid necessary. A great team building exercise, solving a rescue scenario and building confidence through participation.

New faces within the chaperones once again proved positive. The right balance of skills and depth of knowledge within the chaperones allowed us to have IRB drivers and crews on the water, showing the young lifesavers what it is like to be a crewie in the IRB.

The success of the Development Programs relies on the efforts of many.

Thankyou to the chaperones, facilitators, first aid officer, water safety and of course Wendy in the kitchen and the assistance from Macksville Scotts Head SLSC throughout the weekend with work parties and equipment.

And finally thank you to the participants, we hope the weekend was beneficial towards your future in Surf Lifesaving and look forward to having you attend many more Development Programs.

Joanne Hawkins
SLSMNC Development Program(s) Coordinator
Congratulations to Michelle Garvan CHSLSC on SLSMNC Assessor of the Year and Sue Croad HHSLSC on SLSMNC Trainer of the Year, a great effort ladies.

Education in MNC Branch has been on the slight increase overall this season. This is in part to the dedicated team of Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators, who give up much of their time to assist members to become proficient and increase their awards, as well as put through new members.

The new awards per club is below in the table. It is very alarming that there were only 6 new drivers put through for the whole season with a lot of clubs not even putting through any. This also goes for crew members. Considering that these are our core patrolling awards. It is great to see all clubs put through Beach Managers this year.

NEW AWARDS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>BM</th>
<th>SRC</th>
<th>ARTAID</th>
<th>Crew</th>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>SM Beach Manager</th>
<th>First Aid</th>
<th>Long Service</th>
<th>Gold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCH</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSH</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWR</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBH</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below shows the amount of awards and proficiencies for this season. The arrow and then the number next to it indicates the difference. Whilst our senior awards are steady, proficiencies were down overall, but an increase in junior awards. Well done everyone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>No. of Awards Senior</th>
<th>Proficiencies - all Awards</th>
<th>No of Awards Juniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camden Haven</td>
<td>26 ▼ 6</td>
<td>41 ▼ 8</td>
<td>77 ▲ 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat Head</td>
<td>32 ▲ 4</td>
<td>108 ▼ 27</td>
<td>140 ▲ 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey Crescent Head</td>
<td>24 ▼ 4</td>
<td>138 ▲ 24</td>
<td>42 ▲ 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macksville Scotts Head</td>
<td>22 ▼ 13</td>
<td>131 ▲ 19</td>
<td>0 ▼ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Macquarie</td>
<td>70 ▲ 17</td>
<td>266 ▲ 41</td>
<td>292 ▲ 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Rocks</td>
<td>40 ▲ 22</td>
<td>109 ▼ 60</td>
<td>111 ▼ 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacking Point</td>
<td>57 ▼ 10</td>
<td>166 ▼ 10</td>
<td>138 ▲ 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wauchope Bonny Hills</td>
<td>40 ▼ 7</td>
<td>202 ▼ 22</td>
<td>224 ▲ 138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>311 ▲ 2</td>
<td>1161 ▼ 43 *</td>
<td>1024 ▲ 303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include Junior Proficiencies

Our trainers, assessors, and facilitators (TAF’s) have increased this season in all areas, which is great to see. Our TAF’s are a dedicated team who work to the benefit of all members and clubs but ensuring that everything is done at the highest standards and have participated in Professional Development to upskill themselves and remain current with best practice. They embrace all changes that come to them in their stride, which makes my job a lot easier. Thank you TAF’s.
This season saw a streamlining of paperwork and few changes made by the Australian Resuscitation Council which then in turn affects the way we teach CPR. There were also some changes to the way heart attack, heat exhaustion, bleeding, and shock were treated. Everyone took on these changes, diligently. There was also a major change in the way spinals were treated, which changed the way we did proficiencies.

There will be some more minor changes this coming season, but the reintroduction of the Silver Medallion Advanced First Aid.

With proficiencies this coming season, the Chief Training Officers and assessors have taken on the task of upgrading every ARTC holder to the new award ARTC (AID), so look out for this in your proficiencies. Unfortunately anyone with the old Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC) will need to redo the new course. They will be advised and given the opportunity to do so in the coming months.

Recently the TAF’s have had to undertake some more training to remain current for the CPR training and assessing. Thank you to those that undertook this, it certainly is a pleasure to work with a group of professional educators. It is through this professional attitude that we are a branch that education is held in high esteem.

Thank you TAF’s.

Kim Rayner
Director of Education
SLSMNC Branch.

There is a reason the rear-view mirror is so small and the windscreen is so big, because where you are headed is much more important than where you’ve been.
Registrar’s Report 2016/17

Another fantastic season of Surf life Saving on the Mid North Coast with a wide variety of awards, proficiencies and units of competency attained throughout the year.

Thank you to all of the club registrars for processing well over 3000 awards and proficiencies throughout the year, a great achievement for a small group of volunteers. A big thank you to the Branch Committee who has given guidance and support where needed and it has been a pleasure working with you.

The past season has been busier than last season with an increase from 3073 to 3538 awards processed by both the Nippers and senior members of all clubs. Proficiencies were slightly down from 2770 to 2458 at time of closing down SurfGuard for the year. Unfortunately this is the third year proficiencies have declined placing more pressure on less members to patrol at each of the clubs. On a brighter note, this is the first time in three years where awards have increased which is a very good sign for surf life saving showing members are willing to undertake training and assessment through the Organisation. It also shows a growing trend of members to “upskill” further from the Bronze Medallion.

Junior Surf education awards have once again decreased although only slightly by 19 awards from the previous season, with 788 certificates being awarded to JAC members. This, unlike the senior awards is a continuing trend over the last three seasons. On a much brighter note Surf Sports officials increased in numbers again by 4 one being a level 2 official. This ensures the capability of the Branch to run Surf Sports events with trained and competent officials who are well versed in all of the rules of Surf Sports. A further highlight of the year was over 25 IRB crew certificates were awarded and 6 new IRB drivers which are paramount to both competition and patrol requirements. A huge congratulations to all members who achieved an award this year and to those completed proficiencies to maintain current awards.

During the season two hundred and forty seven transfers were completed by Branch clubs during the season with most clubs gaining members whether full transfers or competition only transfers which again is a slight increase for the season.

Due to reorganization of State Surf Life Saving there was a change in staff with award processing. This lead to quite a backlog of awards being issued throughout surf lifesaving. I would like to apologise for these delays however the problem seems to be fixed and I have been assured that from time of processing to issuing of awards should be completed within 6 to 8 weeks. Any enquiries can be directed via email to me at branchregmnc@gmail.com.

There will be a SurfGuard IT awareness course run early preseason and I would like to encourage all members who take part in generating and or processing award and proficiency paperwork within their club to attend this very informative session.

Robert McCue

Registrar Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast
SLS MNC Stats

2,401 – Financial Members form the 8 clubs
26,684 – Patrol Hours carried out by members
123 – Rescues performed
165,282 – Public Attendances at MNC beach’s
603 – First Aid Treatments
2,900 – Preventative Actions by members
3,538 – Awards gained by JAC & Senior Members
2,458 – Proficiencies completed by JAC & Senior club members
247 – Member Transfers
38 – Beach Closures

Members with 100 Hours plus Patrolling Hours

Paul Rudduck – HH – 283
***Kim Rayner – PM – 272
Blake Studders – PM – 174
***Paul Rayner – TP – 148
***Rod McDonagh – SWR – 139
Tony Worton – CH – 132
Malcolm Green – SWR – 127

***David Brunsdon – MSH – 121
***Mitch Dawson – TP – 121
Eric Hammer – PM – 115
Maurie Fuller – KCH – 105
Sean Hallett – – 104
Adam Toogood – – 104
Peter Hammer – PM – 103

***INCLUDES DUTY OFFICER HOURS

SLS Mid North Coast ACTIONS SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>PREVENTATIVE Actions</th>
<th>RESCUES</th>
<th>FIRST AID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macksville Scotts Head</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Rocks</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat Head</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey Crescent Head</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Macquarie</td>
<td>1299</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacking Point</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wauchope Bonny Hills</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden Haven</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2900</strong></td>
<td><strong>123</strong></td>
<td><strong>603</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SLS MNC Awards of Excellence

Junior Life Saver of the Year

Nominee’s were

- Thomas Fletcher – HH
- Mitchell Scott – PM
- Chris Broomby – TP
- Kye Gill – WBH
- Jacob Worton – CH
- Erin Cook – SWR
- Serenity Clancy – HH
- Elizabeth Duffy – PM
- Chloe Slade – TP
- Kiera Alchin – WBH
- Jorja Miller – CH

Junior Special Presentation
Thank you to NPBS for the ongoing sponsorship with Junior and Youth Development & Supporters
Ken Little Fruit & Veg
Coles Lighthouse Beach
Coles Laurieton
Lighthouse Beach Quality Meats
Bakers Delight Port Central

SLSMNC JLOTY - Elizabeth Duffy & Kye Gill

Gary Hawkins, Jessie White and Adam Power from NPBS
## JAC Overall Point Score

1<sup>st</sup> Port Macquarie – 837 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tacking Point – 321 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> South West Rocks – 232 points  
4<sup>th</sup> Wauchope Bonny Hills – 90 points  
5<sup>th</sup> Hat Head – 59 points  
6<sup>th</sup> Kempsey Crescent Head – 47 points  
7<sup>th</sup> Camden Haven – 3 points

## Junior Age Champions

2016/17 Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U/8</td>
<td>Angus Oakshott PM</td>
<td>Lily Mosley PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/9</td>
<td>Lucas Scott PM</td>
<td>Claire Pieren PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/10</td>
<td>Campbell Page &amp; Tyse Thrower TP</td>
<td>Taylah Moffitt KCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/11</td>
<td>Harry Askew SWR</td>
<td>Andie McGrath PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/12</td>
<td>Tahoe Thrower TP</td>
<td>Fleur Sherlock PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/13</td>
<td>Rhys Owens SWR</td>
<td>Alani Cockshutt PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/14</td>
<td>Chris Broomby TP</td>
<td>Miren Davies PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SLSMNC SENIOR BRANCH CHAMPIONS & SURF SPORTS AWARDS
2016/17

U/15 MALE
Finn ASKEW TP

U/17 FEMALE
Jessica OBRIEN TP

U17 MALE
Max MILLIGAN TP

U/19 MALE
Lachlan HAWKINS WBH

U/19 FEMALE
Toni HURKETT PM

30-39 FEMALE
Suzanne WHITE CH
40-49 MALE
Derek HOLLINS TP

40-49 FEMALE
Deb BARTLETT TP

50-59 MALE
Peter SMITH WBH

50-59 FEMALE
Amanda HIGGERSON PM

60-69 MALE
DR John VAUGHAN WBH
OPEN MALE
Lachlan HAWKINS WBH & Max MILLIGAN TP

OPEN Female
Toni HURKETT PM

Outstanding Competitive Performance
Finn ASKEW TP

Tony Hayes Shield Branch Point Score Champions 2016/17
1st Wauchope Bonny Hills 402 points
2nd Tacking Point 327 points
3rd Port Macquarie 254 points
4th Camden Haven 37 points

JH Brown Shield (Water Events)
1st Wauchope Bonny Hills
2nd Tacking Point
3rd Port Macquarie

Bill Balkin Memorial Shield
Kempsey Crescent Head
Rookie of the Year

- Gained his Bronze Medallion in September 2016 and has completed 49.5 patrolling hours.
- Involved in the junior activities, assisting on Sunday mornings with water safety as well as beach activities. He can be found on the beach early helping set-up as well as pack down any of the equipment needed.
- Competed in his first year of Surf Boat Rowing – winning a Gold at the SLSNSW Country Championships in the 160’s Mens Surf Boats and also competed throughout the North Coast Boat Series.

Young Lifesaver of the Year

- Completed Bronze Medallion, IRB Crew and Silver Medallion - Beach Management this season.
- Completed 127.5 Patrol and Water Safety hours.
- Work well with all people ranging from children to adults, always willing to assist when needed showing dedication throughout his presence on the beach during rostered patrols, volunteer patrols as well as water safety.

Athlete of the Year

- 4th U17 Surf Race Final - SLSNSW State Championships 2017
- 4th U17 Surf Race Final- NSW Strammit Country Titles 2017
- 10 Gold medals – MNC Branch Championships (U17’s & OPENS) 2017
Masters Athlete of the Year

- Gold Medal Aussie’s 2017 70+ Ironman
- Bronze Medal Aussie’s 2017 70+ Board

Peter Hennessy TP

Coach of the Year

- Coach of the Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast Interbranch Team
- 8th at Interbranch Championships, which was the highest position the Branch has achieved
- Coach of the Mid North Coast Pathways Group

Richard Broomby TP

Official of the Year

- Has a passion for mentoring more officials within the MNC Branch and has a strategic plan to foster that process moving into the 2016-2017 season
- Officiated at Branch, Country, State, Australian and World Championship carnivals during the season
- He is a dedicated Surf Boat & IRB Official and attended several major ASRL Boat Series & IRB Premiership Carnivals outside of the Branch.

Ray McDonagh SWR
Training Officer of the Year

- Trained multiple Bronze Medallion, SRC, Spinal Management and ARTC courses.
- Also committed to several proficiency days and assessments.
- Has volunteered many tireless hours to training and assessing throughout the season and has been a great mentor to new members.

Sue Croad HH

Assessor of the Year

- Provided many hours in Assessing Bronze Medallion and SRC throughout the season.
- Assisted with Assessment for Proficiency days held for both Club and Branch level.
- Has volunteered many tireless hours to training and assessing throughout the season and has been a great mentor to new members.

Michelle Garvan CH

Community Education Program of the Year

- Involvement of four cadet members from two MNC Clubs.
- Delivered educational program to four Primary Schools.
- Developed an interactive power point presentation.

Mid North Coast Cadets - Georgie Bate, Grace Kuhnell and Piper Seale WBH & Isaac Plunkett PM
**Administrator of the Year**

- Director of Administration for CHSLSC for the 3rd season in a row whilst also a Patrol captain with 61 hours of voluntary hours and 100% patrol attendance.
- High level of professionalism ensuring all correspondence is delivered to members efficiently.
- Ensuring annual compliance with all forms and reports completed and submitted on time.

*Susie Bell CH*

**Initiative of the Year**

- Inclusion of Lower North Coast members in Dee WHY Youth Development Program this season.
- Continued self improvement of the overall structure of the program.
- Weekend showcasing pathways and opportunities within SLS movement.

*Gary Hawkins WBH*

**Surf Sports Team of the Year**

- Have been together as a crew for 5 years. 2 members have been life members of their club for more than 20 years.
- All members are active members and most have continually achieved 100% patrol for the past 5 seasons.
- The crew is highly regarded at their club and are positive role models for other members of the club. During social rowing events and tutorials, the crew share their knowledge with participants and have conducted social rowing information sessions for interested members.

*The Scoundrels - MSH*
Services Team of the Year

• Delivered a high quality development camp for the youth and junior members. This year they combined the age groups and the weekend saw 50 young lifesavers U12-U19 attend. Combining the age groups proved positive and allowed the opportunity for the youth to become leaders.
• Facilitated an overwhelmingly successful youth visit to Dee Why which saw an inclusion of Lower North Coast Branch where lifesaving, education and assisting with nipper activities was incorporated into the weekend.
• Communicated to all members the SLSMNC, SLSNSW and SLSA opportunities for development and established clear pathways offered through Surf Lifesaving.

Volunteer of the Year

• Completed 94.5 Patrol and Water Safety Hours and a prominent member of the SWRSLSC ‘Patrol of the Year’ for the 2015/2016 season.

• Coordination of patrols and knowledge of the surf has supported younger patrol members in SWRSLSC patrolling methods and allowed the club to employ continuous improvement practices.

• Involved in most aspects of the SLS movement including junior activities, competition and fundraising.

Lifesaver of the Year

• IRB Captain who has shown tremendous pride and work ethic when it comes to all things IRBs and has maintained all of the IRBs to an impeccable standard throughout the season.
• An active patrolling member and Patrol Captain who has been heavily involved in events including Water Safety, Sunday morning Nippers Activities, 2017 SLSNSW Country Championships and Ocean Swims.
• Works well with all types of people and is a club person through and through which is shown in his involvement at the club in a range of facets
• With only 34 active patrolling members and one award member the club provided patrols for all Sundays and public holidays and also patrolled Saturdays during School Holidays.
• Patrolling members were involved in 7 Rescues, 360 Preventative Actions and 6 First Aid incidents during a total of 2019.25 man hours of patrols, averaging 57.70 hours each.
• A superb team effort by some members recently saved the life of a stranded mother in hazardous conditions for which they have been formally recognised with the Surf Life Saving NSW Rescue of the Month Award.
Wow, what an amazing and interesting first year as president of our awesome club.

Again we reached the end of another season with no lives lost whilst on patrol. Congratulations. This is an amazing accomplishment given the amount of people that visit our community in holiday periods. Together we have been able to save lives, create great Australians and build better communities. Our club and community are diverse and I am proud to say that despite the obstacles I have been presented with this season, our club has progressed well.

Thank you to the hard-working committee members this season who have gone above and beyond the normal expectations and work hard to keep our club functioning well. Let us all ensure that we have learnt valuable lessons from our actions this season so that they will not be repeated in the future. Special thanks to Terry Falzon, Jim Brazel and Keith McKay who have given countless hours to our club this season week after week.

Our nippers had a great season led by Lara and Gavin Jones. Thank you both for a season that had its ups and downs but was met with overall great feedback, especially the purchase of our water trampoline/fun park. It will certainly be making more appearances next season. Thank you to the kids and parents who made this season memorable and a special thank you to the parents who helped out with managing age groups.

Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in the running and execution of our carnival and SUP event. Both events are important to our club and require the support and coordination of many people. Between Sunday sips and function hire, our club has had great income this season and is getting quite the reputation as being one of the best locations for function hire on the mid North Coast. Thank you to Rick, Dave, Ralph and all of the wonderfully talented musicians who play every Sunday afternoon. Thank you to all our members/volunteers who give their time to volunteer behind the bar to help raise valuable funds for our club.

Through applications for grants by our club secretary Michael Coulter and money raised, we have been able to purchase acoustic noise panelling for all relevant ceiling surfaces. We are continuing to improve the facilities we have and, upgrade our equipment essential to perform our core functions.

Congratulations to our Australian title winning Masters boat crew on their successes this season. Please everyone remember that the reason competition and carnivals exist is to promote the fitness and ability levels of surf lifesavers. I hope to see more members encouraged to participate in surf sports this coming season.

Also congratulations to our new members on joining our club and thank you to our trainers who have helped you to achieve your goals this season. A special thank you to the active patrolling members of the club who keep coming back every season and assure our beach users that they are going to be okay today while you are on patrol. You all epitomise surf lifesaving.

I would like to encourage all of you to think about setting yourself some goals moving into the next season, whether that is to do a course, upgrade or refresh some existing skills. Our club proficiency will be held on Sunday 17 September with further details of the day still to come. Please lock the state into your phones/diaries and start to train well in advance. Our club and beach users need you to be the best surf lifesaver you can be.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the beach in the new season

Yours in surf life saving

Andrew Moran
President
MSHSLSC
President MSHSLSC
It gives me great pride to present this report to the Mid North Coast Branch Surf Life Saving on behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club (SWRSLSC). The 2016/2017 season has been a highly successful season for our club in all operational aspects of Surf Life Saving.

Membership dropped slightly, which led to a restructure of our patrolling teams. Many members stepped up and gained additional awards which led to our patrolling teams becoming stronger overall. Our patrols operated efficiently under our new Life Saving Agreement, through the guidance of our Director of Lifesaving, Jason Rushworth. Jason did a fantastic job ensuring our patrolling duties were fulfilled. It would be remiss not to mention our call out teams, jet ski operators and duty officers who responded to out of hours emergency situations.

The Stramit Country Championships were once again back in South West Rocks, with over 150 officials and 1600 competitors travelling for the event. SWRSLSC’s competitor numbers were down compared to last year which resulted in South West Rocks dropping to 22nd in the overall point score, bagging seven medals. It was once again an impressive effort from all involved in the organising of the event – with special recognition to Stephen Hayes, Rod McDonagh, Samantha Smithett, Sid Jeffery, Ray McDonagh, Grahame Ball and Jessica Stokes for their tireless efforts to execute such a fantastic event, which has received nothing but positive responses. We are looking forward to another great carnival in 2018!

South West Rocks held Round 3 of the North Coast Boat Series in October, which was the start of a successful year for our boaties. Our Open Men’s Crew – Dave Pearson, Troy Gaddes, Will Smith, Matt Ironfield and Daniel Hayes - bagged a Gold at the Stramit Country Championships. The 160’s Men’s Crew – Troy Gaddes, Paul Owens, Stu Cole, Jason Rushworth and Chris Ward took out a Gold Medal at the Country Championships, with this season being the first ever for two of the rowers. The Aussie titles saw unlucky for our rejigged 160’s – Dave Pearson, Paul Owens, Mark Notley, Tory Gaddes and Chris Ward – with the boys coming 5th in the final of their division.

To top off the season South West Rocks held the SLSNSW IRB Championship on the first weekend in July. It was a fantastic way to finish off the season, that included 310 competitors from 25 clubs with Kiama Downs coming away with the overall title.

The annual ‘Bay to Boulders’ Ocean Swim was held in May, slightly later than in previous years, but still successful with 96 entrants. We also provided water safety for the annual Trial Bay Triathlon and our local and visiting schools.

Our Nippers had a very successful season through carnivals and Sunday morning Nipper activities. A big thank-you goes to our Junior Activities Coordinator, Danielle Rushworth and Junior Activities Superintendent, Jo Healey as well as all our Age Managers and those who assist with the beach set-up and water safety each week. Congratulations to Rhys Owens on being awarded the SLSMNC U/13’s Male Pointscore winner for the season.

Our award numbers are up this season, which saw members gaining 15 Bronze Medallions, 6 Surf Rescue Certificates, 8 ARTC, 17 IRB Crewman, 2 Silver Medallion – IRB Driver and 5 Silver Medallion – Beach Management. The position of Chief Training Officer is currently vacant and filing this vital position on the committee is something that is being addressed in preparation for next season.

The bar and bistro operations have seen another profitable year, with the purchase of much needed furniture and bar equipment. As with all surf clubs’ commercial operations, all profits go into purchasing and maintenance of equipment on the beach as well as education and training.

Our grass roots fundraising was once again a year round activity with members from all facets of the club assisting with chocolate wheels, BBQ’s and raffles. Our ‘Old Farts Committee’ (OFCs) are an institution at SWRSLSC. They are a group of retired members ‘guided’ by Tony Hayes OAM, who complete maintenance and odd jobs around the club, as well as run the weekly BBQ’s on Sunday mornings for our Nippers. Without their tireless work the club would not function as well as it does.

A huge thank-you goes to all our local sponsors and supporters: The Heritage Guest House, BKM Contracting, Horseshoe Bay Caravan Park, Happy Smiles, Ball’s Butchery, Pick of the Crop, Coastline Credit Union, SWR Marine and Auto Centre. We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing assistance from

Congratulations to the SLSMNC and SWRSLSCL President, Rod McDonagh for being inducted as one of SLS New South Wales newest Life Members. A 30-year Long Service Award was awarded to Patrick Sheridan.

We will be well represented at the SLSNSW Annual Awards of Excellence Night with members Jason Rushworth – Volunteer of the Year, Ray McDonagh – Official of the Year, Will Smith – Life Saver of the Year and Malcolm Green – Junior Life Saver of the Year winning their respective awards at the SLSMNC Branch Awards of Excellence. Good luck in Sydney!!

On behalf of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club our sincere thanks goes out to the Mid North Coast Branch committee, your continuous support is paramount in the day to day running of our club.

Many thanks to our branch sponsor Newcastle Permanent as well as SLSNSW sponsors DHL, Telstra, Stramit Building Products, ClubsNSW and Beko.

Yours in surf life saving,

Brienna Elford
Director of Administration
SWRSLSCL

Under 6 Nippers 2016/2017
As we close another successful season at Hat Head Surf Life Saving Club I am happy to report that once again no lives were lost. I would like to thank the Board for all their support and assistance throughout the year and the hours they have dedicated to ensure the smooth running of our club.

Thanks to all the Patrol Captains and all patrolling members for their service in keeping Hat Head beach safe. To Mylina Clancy, Director of Lifesaving, thank you for your time this year serving in a very busy role. We had 95 nippers hitting the beach each Sunday, and a team of 25 going to the Country Titles. The tight knit team, led by Ian Webster and Nicole Brown enjoyed a great team spirit and are looking forward to next season.

Quite a few of our regular patrolling members updated their skills and awards this season with a view towards being a more active and responsible member of the club.

A weekly newsletter was commenced last season and was quite popular. With surfguard text service and the newsletter we have been able keep all members abreast of patrol, training and community events.

As a group, members of our surf club have been active in community activities providing first aiders, marshals and entrants in local sporting events, which has been valuable in keeping a high profile for our club as a whole.

Plans have been put into place for a smooth transition into season 2017-2018, with an emphasis on attracting more new member families, up skilling existing members, Job sharing of committee duties to wean in new members to the executive committee and raising the profile of our club in the local area with a view towards attracting funding towards a facility upgrade.
We held our presentation night on the 13th of May at the Surf Club and it was a great success. After dinner, awards and speeches everyone got up on the dance floor and had a great time.

Andrew Kirby receives the John Goodwin Trophy for Clubperson of the year from Melinda Pavey.

Ashley O’Meally receives the John (yakka) Watson award for Junior Clubperson of the year from Luke Hartsukyer.

Paul Rudduck did 283hrs on Patrol.

Thank you also to Woodside for the cover provided for us to shelter under during surf carnivals and nipper days on the beach.

Also thank you to Telstra and DHL for the uniforms provided, without these we would not have the protection we receive from these on the beach.

Ken Parish
President Hat Head SLSC.
Kempsey Crescent Head Annual Report

This has been another exciting year to be involved with the Kempsey-Crescent Head SLSC.

Again we have had an incident free season between the flags- the only major rescue operation being our IRB crew called out to assist with other rescue agencies when a visiting group of youngsters and adults found themselves caught on a rock ledge south of the Big Nobby Headland during the Christmas holidays. This incident occurred when Paid Lifeguards were on patrol and fortunately we were able to launch an extremely experienced IRB crew under Mick & Jake Conomos into testing and dangerous conditions.

Our primary role as active life savers is to prevent drownings and save lives on our beach and our club was one of 129 Surf Life Saving Clubs that protected more than 8.5 million beach goers last season.

Our patrolling members recorded 2,673 hours of duty, completing 42 rescues and 160 preventions. A huge thank you to these members for the manner in which you both represent our club, and service the community. The demands upon you and requirements and expectations do not seem to lessen.

Also, thank you to our Patrol Captains Adam Clay, Dave Bartlett, Scott Edwards, Bel Reid, Mick Conomos, Dave Jacobs and Matt Worrall for your efforts in ensuring our motto “Always Vigilant” is maintained and we present ourselves in a professional manner.

Our surf boat crews form a large part of our patrolling members, and as always they compete with determination and dedication. This is evident again by their success in the North Coast Boat Series, plus efforts in the “AUSSIES”. Congratulations to the Men/240 securing 3rd place.

Our Nippers continue with great enthusiasm- well done to the committee and age managers who give so freely of their time. This year, for the first time in a while, we have had nippers involved in carnivals and leadership programmes- this can only lead to a stronger club. Special thanks to Toni and Adam Moffitt for your drive and encouragement.

The management of our club has again been strong thanks to the expertise, dedication and enthusiasm of our Treasurer and Secretary, Robyn and Maurie Fuller. These two Life Members contribute so much to both our club, and to us, as members. I congratulate you on your efforts and service. You put in so much of your own time - it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with you.

The building completion has been a long one, and again I thank the Building Committee for their efforts for me, the installation of club signage on the exterior has finally established our identity and completion of the building project. I thank our committee for your support in granting my wish with signage!

May I also thank Kempsey Shire Council for the work they are completing, in improving the foreshore area and, in doing so, enhancing our magnificent Surf Club. This is indeed a club house to be proud of.

At our Annual Presentation, the following awards were presented to very worthy recipients. Club Person of the Year- Mitch Johnston, Junior Clubperson of the Year- Courteney McLean, and the President’s Award to Carl Thurgood. Further, I was humbled to receive Life Membership of Kempsey-Crescent Head SLSC and especially to receive this from life Member and Club stalwart, Mick Conomos, who continues, along with Janelle, to give so much to this club.

I now ask all those seeking election to take on their roles with enthusiasm and fulfil all the requirements of their position, thus allowing others, to do theirs. As volunteers, we hear the expression “too busy’
“time poor’, however we do carry the responsibilities of the positions we accept and there will always be other members willing to assist – please just ask.

In closing, may I thank all members and supporters for their contribution over the past 12 months, and like you, I look forward to another successful season in 2017-18.

Ross Foster
Kempsey-Crescent Head Surf Life Saving Club Inc.
30th July, 2017
Season Report - 2016/2017

I am pleased to report that the club had another strong season highlighted as follows:

**Patrols**
The club was able to field 11 patrols this season with 121 active patrolling members plus Active Reserves. This provided 9.00am to 4.00pm coverage of Flynns Beach extending to 5.00pm over the Christmas Holidays on weekends and public holidays. Whilst good numbers were available for patrols IRB Drivers & Crew were again an issue especially when subs were required.

**Rescues**
Whilst its pleasing to report that no fatalities occurred during the season on a number of occasions this was only due to the vigilance & quick response of patrols. Challenging conditions were faced on a number of occasions leading to several serious rescues which would have lead to fatalities without intervention.

**Awards**
The club ran a number of courses throughout the season including several Bronze Medallion courses but retaining newly qualified bronze holders to undertake patrols is still an issue.

**Nippers**
The season saw a very strong contingent of approx. 300 nippers attend the beach with over 120 entering competition and the junior club enjoyed a very successful season not only taking out the branch title and also a 4th place at the country titles. Several Juniors professed on to success at the State Titles with 2 Gold & a Silver. The Junior Committee are to be congratulated on their efforts and looking forward to another strong season

**Surf Sports**
The highlight of completion this season was the club securing 4 place overall at the Country Championships largely on the back of a very good showing by the junior club together with a numbers of successful results for our Masters. Several Master competitors went on the success at State & Australian Titles. The Senior club has identified a lack of competing members at major titles as a problem and is looking at measure to return the club to a competitive force.

**Financial**
The club is in a very strong financial positions and has enjoyed a number of income streams. Hall hire and the clubs liquor licence controlling liquor sales at functions has proved very successful along with opening the Bar on Sunday afternoons. The club sees it financial future very much underpinned by hall hire for functions and bar sales although more traditional forms of fundraising such as sponsorship and hotel raffles are still a major contributor.

**Facilities**
The Club building is in constant need of repair and upgrading and the committee has identified several ares for improvements aligned with our income and membership. Firstly we have identified the replacement of the ceiling to the hall necessary to maintain the standard of the hall for function bookings. We will also be further upgrading our female member amenities to ensure member satisfaction with facilities.

Rick Rolff
President
As I write this report it’s been a long time since August 2015 when the Club’s new Board of Management Committee was elected into office. The 2016/2017 season has been a long one with many great achievements by our members.

**LIFESAVING:**
The first thing we should always report on is the Lifesaving area. This season the Lifesaving portfolio was managed extremely well by the Club’s Director of Lifesaving, Brent Wilkinson, who was elected into his second term.

Under the guidance of Brent the Club’s patrols were extremely competent with our patrolling Members first priority to keep our beach safe whilst meeting the standards required by the Branch and State Centre as well as meeting the expectations of the general public. This aspect was further enhanced at our Presentation night with an increase in the large number of our members achieving 100% attendance on Patrol.

Unfortunately our members were involved in the recovery of two bodies where members of the public they lost their lives in dangerous conditions. Both these incidents happened away from our patrolling area and outside Patrol hours. This doesn’t take away the sadness of each incident, but it does ram home the professionalism of our members in the swift action undertaken by them.

Also during the season our members were involved in a number rescues, thankfully none of these rescues escalated into something worse, so it is a credit to their lifesaving skills.

At this point I should highlight the efforts of Steve Wilkinson. Steve achieved well over the required number of hours on Patrol. He also attended to the maintenance of our tractor as well as being involved in assisting the Director of Finance in reviewing the Club’s Banking requirements.

Steve accrued 92 patrol hours this season, which included assisting on patrol at Camden Haven SLSC. Steve is a hardworking patrolling member and is proactive in ensuring that his patrol team are on alert at all times. Steve also takes the time to encourage the younger members of his patrol team and others around him. Steve was crowned Patrol Person of the Year for the second year in a row, not only for his commitment to patrols as Patrol Captain of his own team but also for assisting in volunteering on numerous other patrols during the season.

I’d like to thank all our patrolling member for their assistance in ensuring our beach was safe this again this season. The Club’s patrolling Members attended on the beach and accrued a total of 4,163 patrol hours.

The Club’s Rookie of the Year was Chris Sexton. Chris and his children joined the Club in 2016 and during that time Chris obtained his Bronze Medallion, ARTC, IRB Crew, First Aid Certificate, Gold Medallion (Advanced Lifesaving) and Silver Medallion Beach Management. Chris also accrued 56.5 patrol hours. Chris was also involved in surf sports training and competition. A great effort for his first season with Tacking Point SLSC.

**EDUCATION**
This section basically goes hand in hand with Lifesaving. Our education was in the very capable hands of Jess Rayner. Jess is a very competent and professional member of our Club. Her knowledge and commitment to this role belies her age and she is breath of fresh air in this important role. Well done Jess.

During the 2016 season Club Members attained a total of 508 awards. A great achievement to our Members and Trainers.

**SURF SPORTS**
This area has really re-established itself this season. All of our athletes trained hard all season and had strict coaching and training sessions locked in for the entire season. There were some great results at Country, State and Aussies with the Club coming in 8th place at Country. Raelene Myers, Finn Askew, Chris Sexton, Tahj Thrower and Ryan Horton with Finn Askew winning Gold at Country. State saw medals for Finn Askew (Silver), Raelene Myers (Silver & Bronze) and Peter Hennessey (Silver). Peter Hennessey also medalled at Aussies. Unfortunately the Masters events at State were cancelled due to the conditions. Raelene also competed in her first Coolangatta Gold, placing 3rd in her age division of the Short Course event. A great effort.

We have an exciting group of young athletes coming through the ranks and I am sure we will commence to achieve the results we had of a few years ago. With the likes of Max Milligan, Ryan Horton, Finn Askew, Chris Broomby and the Thrower boys representing our Club at all levels of competition, I can see a new wave of athletes coming through the Club.
I would like to congratulate Richard Broomby in his role of Director of Surf Sports for co-ordinating all the junior and cadet training at the river shed and on our beach. Richard was also selected as the Coach of the Interbranch Team and I’m sure the experience he gained this season, mixing with the Sydney Coaches, will assist our athletes next season. As a result of his success this season, Richard has been selected as a Coach for the North Coast Academy of Sport. This is great recognition for Richard and our Club, as I am confident we will have many of our athletes chosen in this Squad.

Also during the season our Members have assisted in external events by volunteering as water safety and aids on the bike leg for the Port Macquarie Iron Man and many members volunteer their time as Officials and Water Safety at Carnivals and other non-surf related external events.

At this point I would like to thank all the parents for their efforts in assisting Richard and our athletes this season, with things like water safety and gear. It was a great Team Effort.

**BRANCH RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

- **Coach of the Year** Richard Broomby, Masters Athlete of the Year Peter Hennessy, Young Athlete of the Year Max Milligan
- **Surf Sports Awards**
  - U15 Finn Askew, U17 Max Milligan & Jessica O’Brien, 40+ Derek Hollins and Deb Bartlett, Open Max Milligan
  - Outstanding competitive performance Finn Askew
  - First aid champions
    - Open 1st Jess and Paul Rayner, 3rd Sandra Slattery and Craig Chitchester; U17 Hannah Sexton and Esther Sexton
  - Juniors Point score 2nd on 321 points
  - Age category winners
    - U/10 Male Campbell Page / Tyse Thrower; U/12 Male Tahj Thrower; U/14 Male Chris Broomby

**JAC**

Under the management of Andrew Thrower and his team, many of them for the first time, this section of the Club saw a slight growth in numbers. We are still not back to the numbers of about 2 years ago, but we are getting there. It was pleasing to see that the junior activities remained at the beach and in the water when the conditions were not kind to us. It is a great time to teach our juniors all about surf conditions and what to do in them. If they can be confident on our beach then they can go anywhere in the world and know they can read the surf. During this past season, on any Sunday morning the sight of about one hundred young Tacking Point members on the beach is a joy to us all. I don’t really need to say anymore.

**SOCIAL GROUP**

During the season we had a social committee headed by Tane Power who put together some great social afternoons, none better than the Christmas Party. I really hope this group sticks together and we can expand on the successful events you organised this season.

In addition to the social group, Desle Mason organised our Annual Dinner and Presentation night. Desle’s attention to detail is second to none and we had another very successful evening. Desle had great assistance from Maz Rickwood and Wendy Wilkinson, as well as her husband Graeme Mason. It was also pleasing to see so many of our old members attend the evening and recount glories of days gone by.

During the night we had the official Opening of the awning over the balcony. Our State Member for Port Macquarie and our Club Patron Leslie Williams, as well as our Federal Member Luke Hartsuyker were in attendance on the night and they formally opened the awning.

It was disappointing that the Branch decided to change their Presentation date to the same night as ours, after we had set our date previously.

**ANNUAL DINNER AND PRESENTATION EVENING**

As I indicated above we had a very successful Presentation Dinner. The highlights were the awards presented to the following members:-

- Junior Athlete: Finn Askew
- Team of the Year: U/15 Cameron Relay Team (Ryan Horton, Finn Askew, Tom Osborne & Chris Broomby)
- Female Masters Athlete: Raelene Myers
- Male Masters Athlete: Peter Hennessy
- President’s Award: Craig Chitchester
- Patrol Person of the Year: Steve Wilkinson
Jason Northey Memorial Outstanding Cadet: Finn Askew
Club Person of the Year: Dave Moore

Finn Askew was a popular choice as the Junior athlete and also a worthy recipient of the Jason Northey Memorial Outstanding Cadet award.

Craig Chichester did an outstanding job this year in organising raffles on Friday nights at the Club. He also decided to compete for the Club in the masters division and turned up to all training sessions. He also achieved 100% patrol attendance, accruing 78.5 hours.

The Club Person of the Year was Dave Moore. Dave’s input into the Club for not only this season, but since he has joined the Club about 4 years ago has been nothing short of amazing. He is our gear steward and there is not one day he is not down at the Club organising something or repairing something. He takes our gear and equipment to all of our Carnivals. First to arrive, last to leave. He assisted in the raffles, completed his Bronze, undertook all his patrols with wholeheartedness, accruing 59.75 hours, which included assisting at Camden Haven SLSC on Boxing Day. Dave was a popular choice as all our members recognise the hard work he has put in all season.

Both Craig and Dave were presented with a gift from the Club’s Bar Manager as a thank you for their assistance during the season in relieving the pressure from the Bar Staff during the busy Summer season.

A big thanks to both Dave and Craig for their involvement with the Club during the 2017 season.

BUILDING REFURBISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

This has been a long and arduous process. As I have indicated, this season saw the completion of an awning over the balcony which will provide much needed shade in summer and shelter on wet Friday and Sunday afternoons. We still have a long way to go with all of our other stages, but we’ll get there!

FINANCIALLY

The Club is in a strong position financially and I congratulate the Club’s Director of Finance, Paul Rayner, on the job he has done this season.

I would like to thank and congratulate all our sponsors and supporters who assist financially or in kind, Surf Life Saving NSW, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Telstra Port Central, Dial Before U Dig, Earls Turf, Clarry Anderson Sheet Metal Pty Ltd, Muras Steel Pty Ltd, Rock Motorcycles Port Macquarie and the local community of Lighthouse Beach and surrounds who patronise the Club and provide generous donations during fundraising events.

The Club was also successful in receiving a Grant from Hastings Co-op & IGA Community Chest 2016 Grants to assist with the purchase of club boards for our junior members.

The Club look forward to continuing its relationship with our sponsors and supporters.

Whilst our junior members were involved in the Club’s local fundraiser within the community, unfortunately the annual fundraiser at “The Donut” was unable to take place due to the continued works being carried out. Hopefully next season will see the Club once again showing its colours over the Easter Long weekend as this is a valuable fundraising effort for the Club.

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Club continues to be managed by the Club’s Director of Administration, Lynn Smith, who is in her second season with the Club. Lynn oversees the yearly registration process together with the Club’s Jnr Registrar, to ensure that the Club is compliant in obtaining all relevant documentation from Members as required by SLSNSW and SLSA. Lynn continues to keep our Members up to date with club happenings, courses, external events, SLSNSW weekly Club Mail, Club Minutes, either via email or updating the Club’s Facebook page. Lynn also manages the Club’s web page, reviews the Club’s Constitution and is updating the Club’s Regulations. Lynn has also made applications on behalf of the Club for Grants to assist with the Club’s renovations and lifesaving equipment during the season which, although unsuccessful at this time, have involved research and time out of her usual administrative duties. Lynn also continues to be the main point of contact for all things “surf club” related, if she is unable to assist she can always steer the member/non member to the correct person.

BAR & BISTRO

The bar and bistro were again one of the main income streams for the Club. During the summer period we experienced good crowds and the pleasing aspect of this is that the majority were locals. The Club’s Bar Manager, Heather Wallace, has done an excellent job of managing the functions of the bar as well as rostering staff for weddings, functions and normal trading hours.

For the bar to be effective and compliant with our license Cathy Haddad continues to do an excellent job of maintaining good quality meals at reasonable prices.
As Winter is upon us, although the numbers are down a bit, I am still delighted to see the regular patrons still supporting our Club.
Finally, I look forward to another great year on the beach and hopefully the Club can exceed our efforts of the 2016/2017 season.

Thankyou
Mick Lang
PRESIDENT

Wauchope Bonny Hills Annual Report

It gives me great pride to present this report to the Mid North Coast Branch Surf Life Saving on behalf of the Executive and members of the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club.
I wish to express my appreciation to all of the MNC Branch Executive for all of the hard work they do.

I also wish to publicly thank my fellow Wauchope Bonny Hills executive team who do such a wonderful job in ensuring that our club continues to thrive. Trent Seale – Vice President, Phil Kaufmann - Director of Administration, Jeff Ryan – Director of Finance, Michelle Kirkwood and Marie-Louise O’Neill – Directors of Life Saving, Paul Hoole – Director of Education, Leanne Goggin – Director of Youth Activities, Glen Stewart – Director of Competition and Jill Woodlands – Director of Functions / Beaches at Bonny Hills, to each and every one of you my sincere thanks.

However my biggest accolade and recognition goes out to every member of the Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC for your contribution.

The 2016/17 season has been another highly successful season for our club, we have a stable executive committee, increased patrolling membership and are in a sound financial position.
We proudly say that no lives were lost at Bonny Hills beaches whilst WBH patrols were on duty. Our members have patrolled in excess of the requirements of our lifesaving agreement and were involved in a number of “out of hours” responses during the season.
We are extremely fortunate in having many members who contribute to our lifesaving functions, with staggering voluntary contributions of time.

The Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC Co-Directors of Lifesaving, Michelle Kirkwood and Lou O’Neill have led the way in improving our lifesaving standards, in their fourth year in this demanding role. Our patrolling strength was excellent. We were able to build our lifesaving depth this season to fourteen patrols (two Saturday morning patrols and twelve rotating patrols).

This meant that rotating patrol members were rostered for one half day patrol every four weeks, as a result of the reduced rostered patrol requirements we saw an increasing willingness of members to substitute when patrol members were unable to attend their rostered patrol. Our patrol season concluded with the now traditional “biggest patrol” conducted on the last patrolling day of the season. As well as a superb barbecue, events such as beach touch footy, chariot races and a treasure dig were enjoyed by close to forty patrolling members and friends.
It was also fitting that the MNC Branch Member Services team (which includes three WBH members – Gary and Joanne Hawkins and Leanne Goggin) continues to provide such fantastic opportunities for the lifesavers of the future within our Branch. Initiatives such as the Branch Youth Lifesaving camps and the Dee Why / Sydney visit are so important in the retention of young members into our organisation.

Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC is very proud that Kye Gill was announced as the MNC Branch Junior Lifesaver of The Year for the 206/17 season, a fantastic honour for a fabulous young man. Young members are the future of our clubs and organisation more broadly. At Wauchope Bonny Hills we are immensely proud of all of our youth members.

Like any organisation we need to continue to evolve, and remain relevant to the public we serve and to our grass roots membership base. Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC continues to call on Surf Life Saving at Branch, State and National offices to ease the administrative and governance burden placed on members at all levels. Our clubs are made up of volunteers and yet the movement seems intent on increasing the time commitment of ordinary members, be it in reporting, requalification and compliance, all of this before we even put a patrol cap on or put the flags up! Unfortunately, much of the fun of being a member is being overtaken by more and more rules based compliance.

Wauchope Bonny Hills has repeatedly put forward resolutions for the MNC Branch to move to a more professionally based administration. The MNC Branch Executive do a fantastic job, but WBH believes that a professional Executive Officer working for the MNC Branch Executive, could advance Surf Life Saving in our region to a new level. It is our view that a full time resource working solely for the betterment of all of the MNC Branch clubs is what we should be working toward. We believe that such a role (working under the direction of the MNC Branch Executive) could advance the organisation both strategically and operationally in areas such as media coverage, membership recruitment, ease the administrative burden on clubs, increase sponsorship income and investigate the creation of other income streams, develop and promote surf sports events. All of these initiatives would be designed to meet the MNC Branch strategic plan for the benefit of the clubs in our branch.

Whilst we acknowledge that SLS NSW has provided a development officer (for the first time in a number of years), our club is firmly of the view that the area of coverage (Forster to the Qld. Border) is simply too big, and the efforts of the officer will be diluted by the huge distances and number of clubs involved.

On a sad note our club unexpectedly lost a distinguished member, Simon Stennett during the season. Simon passed away at home in Wauchope after having rowed at the South West Rocks round of the North Coast Surfboat Series. Despite being only 34 years old, Simon held many positions in the club over the years including Treasurer (during the period of planning for the new clubhouse), Boat Captain and Patrol Captain. Simon was also a passionate surfboat rower and key member of our surfboat section. Simon was the first to provide help and assistance to anyone and was a huge part of recruiting and retaining young rowers.

“Stenno” is a huge loss to our club.
At our presentation night we announced that the award for the most outstanding junior surfboat rower would be renamed the Simon Stennett Memorial Junior Surfboat Rower of The Year. The award has been sponsored by Issacs & Cole Accountant, where Simon worked. It was fitting that the initial recipient of this award was Michael Barnes. Our thoughts are with Simon’s parents Joanne and Brian, and their family.

Wauchope Bonny Hills has a highly professional and dedicated ‘Lifesaving Education’ management team consisting of Paul Hoole, Gayl Ellis and Elaine Walker. This team, assisted at various times throughout the season by Jeremy Bate, Dr John Vaughn, Gary and Lachlan Hawkins, Michelle Butt and Debra Tougher ensured new club members were trained for lifesaving awards in an efficient manner, thus ensuring that we had a good number of new patrolling members. Jedd Goggin also contributed by conducting an intensive bronze/SRC course during the Christmas school holidays.

For the third successive year Wauchope Bonny Hills are the Mid North Coast Branch surf sports point score champions with a huge performance at the Branch Championships conducted at Camden Haven. The highlight of the championships for our club being the Lifesaver Relay where WBH was successful in taking 1st and 3rd placings, testament to the team spirit on display and a huge tribute to Glen Stewart our Director of Competition and Trent Seale our coaching coordinator.

For the fourth consecutive year Wauchope Bonny Hills was represented in the Coolangatta Gold. This was our biggest ever representation with 6 teams taking part and a travelling contingent of over 50 competitors and supporters. Our teams were supported by Expressway Spares and Mid Coast Uniform Solutions. Our mixed master’s team of Trent Seale, Chris Sands, Adam Lacey and Raquel Seale created history by becoming our first ever gold medallists at the Cooly Gold!

Our Women’s master’s team of Elaine Walker, Louise Stewart, Carolyn Turnham and Jan Proudfoot gained a very close 2nd place in their division. A huge result for our club.

WBH has already confirmed at least six teams for the 2017 Cooly Gold which remains one of the world’s toughest events. We had less crews than in some previous seasons but the performances were just as polished with a North Coast Surfboat Series win (tie with Coffs Harbour) in Reserve Grade Men (Hammerheads) who also won silver at NSW County, with the U23 Men (Bullsharks) and Master Women (Makos) also winning NSW Country medals.

The 2016/17 season was another outstanding success on the competitive front for the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Club. I believe that our competition diversity is a significant strength for our club an example being NSW Country Gold medals won in events as diverse as surfboats, march past, R & R, board riding, beach and craft events, from under 8’s to over 70’s. There were so many highlights and contributors that I am sure I will miss someone in this brief report (if I do it is in no way intentional).

Keith Charles – NSW Champion O/60 years Beach Flags & NSW Country Gold Medallist.
George Fowler – Silver and Bronze medals NSW Championships 0/70 years Beach Flags & NSW Country gold medallist.

Trent Seale, Chris Sands, Adam Lacey and Raquel Seale Coolangatta Gold Champions.
Elaine Walker, Louise Stewart, Carolyn Turnham and Jan Proudfoot 2nd place Coolangatta Gold.
Sarah Stewart – NSW Champion U/15 female board riding.
Steve Robinson – NSW Country Gold medallist masters flags.
Tony Meath – NSW Country Gold medallist masters sprint and bronze in the 2km beach run.
Piper Seale and Mia Bales – NSW Country Gold medallists R&R and NSW Championship finalists.
Open March Past team – NSW Country champions second year in a row.
Hugh Stewart – 6th place u/17 ocean swim race Australian Championships.
Elaine Walker – NSW Country Medallist single ski.
Dr John Vaughan – NSW Country Gold in long board riding.
The “Bullsharks” – U23 men’s boat crew - NSW Country Gold medallists and A Grade medallist North Coast Surf Boat Series.
The “Hammerheads” – North Coast Surf Boat Series winner (tie with Coffs Harbour) and NSW Country silver medallists.
The “Makos” 180 years women boat crew – NSW Country silver medallists.
Elaine Walker and Gayl Ellis – 2nd place in MNC Branch First Aid Competition.
Mid North Coast Championships Lifesaver relay – 1st and 3rd.
Mid North Coast Branch Point score Champions.
Wauchope Bonny Hills proudly competed at Mid North Coast, NSW Country, NSW and Australian Championships in 2016/17 season.
The Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Club Australian Championship team travelled to Queensland’s Gold Coast. Unfortunately, the weather gods meant that the carnival was largely abandoned. Whilst our club recognises that SLS and officials have a difficult role in situations like this we believe that the decisions made were not correct. It is difficult to accept that members of clubs who travel large distances and spend significant amounts of money are left “high and dry”. The absolute irony and insult to injury being the conditions on Saturday and Sunday which would have allowed competition to proceed. Organisationally we need to do better and to have greater consideration for our greatest asset – our members.
Thanks must go to our official Chalkie Bob Smith OAM, who was presented with an award for being a surf sport official for 50 years. This is a fitting award to our club’s most decorated member. Chalkie is a life member of MNC Branch, SLS NSW, SLSA and of course the Life Governor of our club.

Our nipper numbers have had an increase this season with huge numbers of new members in the U/6 and U/7 divisions. It was fantastic to see such a large influx of new members, being expertly guided around the beach by Steve and Mel Robinson. We believe this increase in numbers is largely attributable to our school engagement program which was designed, developed and delivered by some of our outstanding youth members Grace Kuhnell, Piper Seale and Georgie Bate.

On the social and community scene, WBH continues to ensure that it contributes positively to the community. In addition to life saving our club conducted the “Carols on the Grass” and assisted with the “Bonny Hills Walk for a Cure” cancer fundraiser, the Port Macquarie Triathlons as well as assisting a number of school groups, during the season. We also hosted the “Bonny Hills Artists @ the Surf Club” over the Easter period.

Our club presentation was attended by 120 members and friends. Our season welcome function and Christmas party were also well attended and assisted in building the camaraderie of club members.
The club’s function centre, “Beaches at Bonny Hills” continues to operate as the premier venue for celebrations on the coast, with the bar open every Friday night throughout the year and selected other nights during the Christmas school holidays which in turn contributes to our positive financial health.
We are also very fortunate to have the commitment of great sponsors and supporters:

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BEACHES AT BONNY HILLS
MID COAST UNIFORM SOLUTIONS
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WAUCHOPE LIONS CLUB
M & S PRINT
To the current members of the Wauchope Bonny Hills Executive, my thanks for all of your hard work and desire to ensure that Wauchope Bonny Hills surf club continues to evolve and progress.

Thanks and congratulations to the Mid North Coast Surf Life Saving Executive and each of the other MNC Branch clubs.

To every single Wauchope Bonny Hills member thank you for your contribution, congratulations and keep enjoying your club.

Peter Smith
PRESIDENT
WAUCHOPE BONNY HILLS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Camden Haven Annual Report

Camden Haven would like to say well done to all the surf clubs of the MNC Branch for this past season. We have all had some unexpected issues to cope with and we have all come out stronger as clubs and have assisted with support for each club and member of the branch as these unforeseen circumstances have occurred.

Camden Haven saw a change in executive at the start of the season with Michelle Garvan becoming president following the resignation of Glen O’Brien, with Ben Hosick becoming Vice president. This executive did a great job and worked tirelessly as a team to build our clubs standing in the community and in this Branch. We feel we have a good mix of youth, mature, experienced and new and enthusiastic members on the executive.

Our Junior ranks increased this season. We had a new Director of Junior Activities in Suzanne White who also works on the surf sports committee. Suzanne was able to get a few members to participate in branch carnivals and did themselves proud. The team had a manager in Ben Hosick who was supporting and enthusiastic in this position and is hoping next season to have a few more compete and step up to country and state carnivals.

Our Senior club saw its ranks increase when 7 of our SRC members become Bronze medallion holders, 1 new adult Bronze medallion and 4 new SRC members all these new members become important members of our 4 patrols. We weren’t able to increase our patrols but we topped up our existing 4 patrols to make them stronger.
31 active patrolling members over 4 patrols with 206 new awards including proficiencies. We completed a total of 2275 patrolling hours which equates to an average of 73.38 hours per member. We had 24 members who had 100% patrol attendance with 5 of our members included in the top male and female Branch patrol hours of the season.

We had a major First Aid incident who happened to be one our most respected active members who suffered a disceting Aortic Anyuerism while enjoying an off duty swim. He made it off the beach and to hospital were he was flown to John Hunter had surgery and is recovering.

Excellent teamwork from a group of lifesavers from our club helped save the life of a stranded swimmer in challenging conditions at Dunbogan Beach over the Easter school holidays. After patrols had finished for the day NSW Police requested assistance from surf lifesaving assets after reports began to emerge of a woman in difficulty at the northern end of the beach. The State Operations Centre tasked the emergency call out team from Camden Haven SLSC to attend. At around 4pm we were able to reach the woman and pluck her from the ocean. She was rapidly transported to shore where she was treated by paramedics for extreme exhaustion. It was estimated that she had been in the water for around an hour before she was eventually rescued. We received SLSNSW rescue of the month for April for this and we truly grateful for all the support given to us.

Camden Haven SLSC is very proud to have been awarded SLSMNC Club of the Year at the Branch Awards of Excellence. Also our members Susie Bell was named Administrator of the Year and myself Assessor of the Year. We are all very excited to have been nominated for the State Awards and a large group of us will be attending the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence in August.

We have had our AGM and all executive have been re elected. We are grateful for all the support given to us this season especially with assistance on the beach and look forward to a bigger and better season for 2017/2018.

Michelle Garvan
CHSLSC President
President Report

First off I would like to say thanks to all the officials and (especially) Leane for doing such a wonderful job throughout the season, without you we would not have such a great series.

Next I would like to thank the following sponsors

- A W Edwards for coming on board and buying the rashies (I’ll talk about them later) and jackets for the officials. Plus I can say they have signed up again.
- Nitto, Hoey Moey, Tooheys and NBN for their continued and very much appreciated support.
- ARB for radios
- Sheenah for organizing and donating the prizes on presentation night.

The continued support of our sponsors helps our series run smoothly.

The committee, well done for a trying year but we did it. All the clubs that held a carnival great effort by you and your support crews.

The joint carnival with the Street Series was another great success, this season we saw more clubs and crews competing. Tea Garden sure knows how to put on an event, well done. Now this is the last season we travel to Tea Gardens, the following season it comes up our way. So it will have to be the same weekend as the interbranch championships in 2018, all we have to do is vote on a beach next year. My opinion is Scotts Head due to the accommodation, beach & the location in terms of all the competing clubs. The club is willing to hold it.

It’s a shame that the joint carnival with Queensland clubs was not a huge success but we appreciate those clubs that made the effort and came down.

The rashies, well I’ll take the responsibility for that, just a stuff up in terms of sizing and the logo placement. Even though I discussed sizing etc with the company it ultimately falls on me as I organized the whole thing. But it won’t happen again as we are looking at a new supplier.

Presentation night went well and I think that all those attending had a fantastic time. We have done our best to keep the prices down but the ticket price also goes toward our share of the band hire (it not just the meal)

Overall our series is one of the best run if not the best boat series in Australia and that’s because of the boaties and support people they bring with them. Visiting crews are quick to say how much fun they have
had, how well our carnivals are run. Plus they get to see photos of themselves in action. Our officials, recorder, photographer all do a fantastic job. Nothing is ever a problem, everyone helps everyone. If the officials ask someone to do something it’s done no problems. Which is very much appreciated.

All I can say is our series is in good hands, I know our numbers are down but that seems to be a current trend across all series.

Regards
Warren Whitten
0417 457 245

North Coast Surf Boat Series as part of Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast Branch
Treasurers Report 2016/2017

I would like to add another thank you to all our sponsors - the Hoey Moey as the major sponsor of the series along with Lion Nathan and AW Edwards. ARB and Nitto for their continued support to the series with in-kind donations of equipment that keep us going.

Income: - Sponsorship increased this season with the welcome addition of AW Edwards; entries decreased slightly from last season, with $8,400 received.

Expenses: - Increased sponsorship helped offset the lower entries which enabled us to distribute the end of season prize money as planned. Lower costs for prizes also benefited the bottom line.

As at 31 May 2017 there was one unpresented cheque of $385 (presented 16/6/16) and expected income of $3,350 (all received by 7/7/16). This leaves one expense yet to be invoiced -reimbursement to MNC Branch for the trailer registration.

The net effect of the above resulted with income to the series of $1,066.69 and the bank balance standing at $17,713.75 as at 31 May 2016.

The number of crews dropped again this season, mostly showing a noticeable lack of junior rowers on the NSW North Coast.

With the continued support of all our sponsors we are looking forward to another successful season in 2017/2018.

Rebecca Mitchell
Treasurer
North Coast Surf Boat Series
REFEREE’S REPORT FOR THE NORTH COAST SURFBOAT SERIES 2016/2017 SEASON

First of all I would also like to extend a wholehearted THANKYOU to all our officials who worked tirelessly over the season so that crews had good competitive racing at all carnivals. We have a small group of officials who do an outstanding job for our series. Well done to all of you.

I must special mention of Leane for her tireless effort in being our recorder. She does an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to ensure everything is right on the day. Without her efforts we would struggle.

SPONSORS:

I would like to thank all of our sponsors who continue to support our series. No doubt Warren will elaborate in his report about our sponsors, but I would like to congratulate the Hoey Moey for a great presentation evening.

COMBINED STREETS SERIES/NORTH COAST BOAT SERIES

This season we saw another great combined carnival with the Streets Series. They were testing conditions at Tea Gardens, but all of our crews handled the surf well and did our series proud. I’m looking forward to continuing this combined carnival next season.

INTERSTATE & VISITING CLUBS:

As was the case last season, we had a few crews attend from Queensland. The pleasing aspect of this was that most of these crews gave very positive feedback in the way we conduct our carnivals and they are interested in getting more of the Queensland crews to attend our series. We also had a few crews from other areas who attended our series and found our series very competitive. The more crews we get from outside our series, the better exposure for our series.
CARNIVALS:

We need to get the numbers back not only in our series, but across the Australia!!

We now have 8 divisions to consider especially at major carnivals. For the Referees and recorders this is a challenge especially if there is a surf running. My biggest concern is being able to give each division quality and fair racing. This is one of the reasons I believe we are losing numbers. If the conditions are not suitable then we seem to drop a few divisions i.e., usually U/19 female and u/23 female and in some cases reserve women. If it happens on three or four occasions over a season then rowers become disillusioned with the sport.

While I write this I keep thinking of when surfboat racing across Australia, was at its peak so to speak. What did we do then that we aren’t doing now.

I keep coming up with the same answer – Quality.

Even in our series we used to have 3 rounds on Saturday and 3 rounds on Sunday. No finals, no double points and no drop your worst round. So each race you tried your hardest to get maximum points.

Saturday nights the host Club would have something organised so therefore there was more mingling and talking about rowing.

Even the other series were doing similar things if not the same. Sydney Northern Beaches, arguably the strongest series in Australia for surfboats, they haven’t changed anything in their series over the years.

The other thing we used to do was use our series as a training ground for the major events. Over recent years it is all about winning the division and accumulating points!

What we really need to do is develop more sweeps. If we don’t then we will not have crews so therefore the sport will die. We can do this by using one of our carnivals as a training day!

SUGGESTION:

We use a couple of Sunday’s as training days. Composite crews, new sweeps with experienced crews with an experience sweep in the crew. Make it a fun morning.

Saturday is still the competition day.

COFFS CRAFT CARNIVAL:

This coming season I’d like to revert to the old concept of the Coffs Craft. 2 days of racing over the full course. Saturday will be block racing and Sunday will be quarter, semi and finals. I’m confident we can cater for all divisions over this weekend and I’m also confident we can attract more clubs from Queensland and Sydney if we do this.

Obviously the Coffs Club would have to agree and ratify this suggestion.
OFFICIALS:

We need more officials not only in surfboats but across all disciplines.

I have been campaigning for a number of seasons now to have a succession plan for our surfboat officials in NSW.

We were the only series that seemed to do it and it was pleasing to see Bec and Warren step up and Referee some of our carnivals when I was away. I’m hoping this continues next season.

FOUNDATION OFFICIALS. These are members of clubs who have not done the officials course, but would like to help out at our carnivals. They don’t necessarily have to be rowers, but someone in your Club that hangs around the boaties and would like to have a go. We give them a quick briefing at the start of the day and they go from there. They cannot officiate at any major Carnival such as branch, country, state or Aussies, but we can do it at our series

CONCLUSION:

All in all it has been a great season. There are issues on the board at a State and National level which need to be addressed, but the burning issue is we need to recruit more members and rowers otherwise the stats indicate we are losing numbers/crews, so it’s all about US making an effort to make a difference in OUR sport.

Mick Lang

Referee